



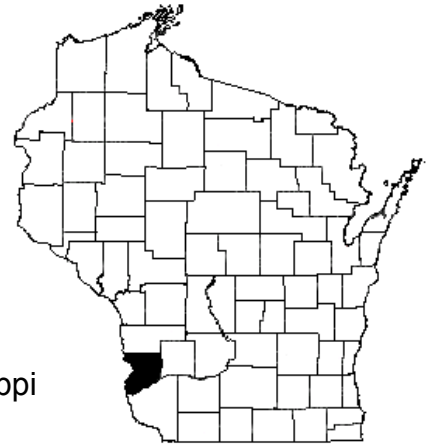
# Fish and Wildlife Conservation

How Fish and Wildlife Dollars Are Used in Your Backyard

## Crawford County

### ***County characteristics***

- 587 sq. mi.
- County consists of steep bluffs, timbered coulees, ridge-top farms, dotted with intermittent lowlands and river bottoms.
- Waters: cool-water streams; 9 lakes including access to 30 miles of Mississippi River, 29 miles of the Wisconsin River, and 125 miles of Kickapoo River; 159 miles of classified trout water
- Experiencing rapid development of bluffs overlooking the Mississippi and Wisconsin Rivers
- There are 17,404 residents living in Crawford County



### ***State Land Open to Hunting and Fishing***

- 11,891 acres of state land including wildlife and fisheries areas and streambank protection areas, most of which is open to public hunting

Locate DNR properties at:

[http://www.dnr.wi.gov/org/land/facilities/dnr\\_land\\_mapping.html](http://www.dnr.wi.gov/org/land/facilities/dnr_land_mapping.html)

### ***Fish and Wildlife Staff serving you***

- DNR Service Center supporting Crawford Co.  
3550 Morman Coulee Rd. LaCrosse 54601
- 3 Customer Service Staff located at service center.
- 1 Wildlife Biologist, 1 Wildlife Technician;
- 2 Fisheries biologists; 2 Fish Technicians;
- 1 Conservation Warden stationed in Crawford Co.
- Viroqua Field Station: 220 Airport Rd., Viroqua, 54665; serves Vernon, Grant, LaCrosse & Monroe counties.

### ***Activities Funded by Your Hunting and Fishing Dollars***

- Establish and maintain forest, grassland, and wetland habitat for ducks, pheasants, wild turkey, deer, and other wildlife species on public and private lands.
- Conduct fisheries surveys on streams, rivers, and lakes to assess fish populations.
- Monitor the harvest of commercial species of fish in order to prevent over-exploitation.
- Protect and enhance backwater habitats of the Mississippi River in order to provide essential over-wintering habitat for fish species.
- Enforcement – monitor commercial activities including clamming, fishing, guiding, bait harvest, captive wildlife, and ginseng harvest
- Enforcement – ensure compliance during fishing, trapping, and hunting seasons with special emphasis on canvasback ducks, turkey, otter, trout and deer.
- Enforcement – assist conservation and service clubs with special events to include youth hunting/fishing programs, Bucks of Crawford County, Rendezvous, Crawford County Conservation Days and special events at Cabela's.

- Control exotic and invasive species such as purple loosestrife, leafy spurge, wild parsnip, spotted knapweed, thistle, garlic mustard, and boxelder to assure quality native habitats.
- Manage DNR land by posting public hunting and access sites, build and maintain parking areas.
- Monitor local wildlife populations of ducks, geese, pheasants, grouse, woodcock, deer, frogs, songbirds, and eagles.
- Respond to wildlife damage and nuisance complaints and monitor wildlife diseases including CWD and West Nile Virus.
- Evaluate proposed projects for environmental impacts, work to keep habitats intact and functional for fish and wildlife.
- Provide educational programs for schools, conservation organizations and civic groups.
- Extensive trout habitat restoration projects
- Fishery surveys including inventories, stream classification, habitat and stocking evaluations

### ***Crawford County Conservation Snapshots***

20 Boat access points along the Mississippi River and 3 on the Wisconsin River  
16 ALIS License Agents Supported  
Several Hotline Complaints  
9 Deer and 6 Turkey Registration Stations  
12.81 miles of public stream access



### ***Fish & Wildlife Stocking Summary***

- 18 streams stocked with 28,340 wild brook and brown trout
- 1 Public Hunting Ground stocked annually with 240-360 pheasants
- 1 Day-old chick club which annually stocks 300-350 pheasants on public land

### ***County Success Stories***

- Over the last 25 years, many miles of trout stream have been rehabilitated. In addition, hundreds of acres of backwater lakes on the Mississippi River have been enhanced or restored through the joint efforts of the DNR and the USFWS, providing habitat for fish and wildlife, and recreation land for the public.
- Rush Creek State Natural Area is the largest dry hillside prairie complex in the upper Midwest
- Excellent wild turkey and deer hunting opportunities
- More than 300,000 canvasback ducks rest and feed in the Crawford County portion of the Mississippi River each year during migration

### ***Statewide challenges to maintaining your hunting and fishing opportunities***

- Without a fee increase as proposed by Governor Doyle, the Department of Natural Resources will be forced make numerous cuts in:
  - Fish and wildlife stocking programs: Conservation law enforcement; Public hunting acres; Fish and wildlife field biologists and Customer services
- Keeping upland, shoreline and aquatic habitat intact and functional
- Multiple user conflicts - Increasing pressure on public lands
- Rapid growth – urban sprawl
- Nuisance wildlife and invasion by non-native species
- Disease management